

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A medicine packing apparatus in which a packing sheet is printed with predetermined information by printing means, medicine is fed into the packing sheet by medicine feed means, and the packing sheet is sealed by seal means so as to pack the medicine in single ~~by one~~ packages, wherein:

the seal means is provided with a conveyance portion for conveying the packing sheet;

in the middle of a conveyance path from the print means to the seal means, there are provided moving means which comes into contact with the packing sheet and moves so that the tension of the packing sheet is held to be a constant value, and

position detecting means which detects a moved position of the moving means;

~~whereby-wherein,~~ after the packing sheet is conveyed by the conveyance portion and the position detecting means detects a predetermined moved position, ~~print-printing~~ by the print means is started.

2. (Currently Amended) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the moving means comprises a roller which is rotatable and movable and urging means which urges the packing sheet with a constant force to eliminate ~~a slack of~~ in the packing sheet.

3. (Currently Amended) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the roller is a tension roller attached on a ~~descending and ascending~~ table which is movable in an upward direction and a downward direction ~~deseends and aseends~~ along a guide rail, the tension

roller ~~being operable to move~~~~forcing up~~ the packing sheet in the upward direction; and wherein the urging means is a spring for urging the ~~descending and ascending table in an~~ upward direction.

4. (Currently Amended) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the position detecting means is operable to detect~~detects a descending position of the descending and ascending a lower position of the table~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A medicine packing apparatus in which a packing sheet is printed with predetermined information by printing means, medicine is fed into the packing sheet by medicine feed means, and the packing sheet is sealed by seal means to pack the medicine ~~by one~~ in a package, wherein:

the seal means is provided with conveyance portion for conveying the packing sheet;

in the middle of a conveyance path from the print means to the seal means, there is provided tension detecting means which detects a tension ~~act~~ acting on the packing sheet;

~~whereby~~ wherein, after the packing sheet is conveyed by the conveyance portion and the tension detecting means detects a predetermined tension of the packing sheet, a printing operation~~print~~ by the print means is started.

6. (New) A medicine packing apparatus comprising:

a sealing unit including a packing sheet conveyor for conveying a packing sheet along a

packing sheet conveying path, wherein the sealing unit is operable to seal the packing sheet so as to form medicine packages;

a printing unit, disposed along the conveying path, for printing on the packing sheet, wherein the sealing unit is disposed along the conveying path downstream of the printing unit;

at least one medicine feeder for feeding medicine into the packing sheet;

a tension roller disposed along the conveying path between the printing unit and the sealing unit, wherein the tension roller is movable in an upward direction and a downward direction;

urging means for urging the tension roller in the upward direction to remove slack in the packing sheet; and

a position detector for detecting a predetermined position of the tension roller, the predetermined position corresponding to a desired tension in the packing sheet,

wherein a printing operation can be initiated when the position detector detects the predetermined position of the tension roller after the packing sheet conveyor begins conveying the packing sheet.

7. (New) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the tension roller is connected to a table which is movably supported on vertical guide rails.

8. (New) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the urging means comprises a spring, and the position detector a sensor for sensing the position of the table.

9. (New) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein operation of the packing sheet conveyor creates tension in the packing sheet which in turn causes the tension roller and table to move in the downward direction to the predetermined position.